(a) whether it is a fact that due to recent happenings around India, the deficit in oil pool account has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the estimated deficit by the end of current financial year; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The management of the oil pool account is a continuous process and the strategy to manage the same depends *inter alia* on various factors *viz*. the prevalent international prices of crude oil/ petroleum products, exchange rate, duty structure, domestic selling prices of controlled products (motor spirit, high speed diesel, kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG) etc. The oil pool deficit is monitored by the Government and appropriate action is taken from time to time.

De-reservation of vacancies for SCs/STs/OBCs

*219. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies/posts reserved for SCs/ STs and OBCs are being "de-reserved" and filled by "others" despite imposition of ban on "de-reservation" of vacancies with effect from 1st April, 1989, by DOPT OM No.36012/6/88-Estt. (SCT) dated 25th April, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the instances where vacancies/posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs have been de-reserved and filled by persons other than those for whom they were reserved since 1st April, 1989 in the Ministry of Finance and its attached and subordinate offices during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Office Memorandum of the Department of Personnel & Training dated 25.4.1989, relating to ban on de-reservation in direct recruitment to vacancies under the Central Government,

also provides that in case of direct recruitment to vacancies in Group A Services, there may be rare and exceptional cases where after the non-availability of suitable SC and/or ST candidates, posts cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest. In such situations, the adminsitrative Ministry/ Department under which the recruitment is being made shall make a proposal for dereservation giving full justification for such action, and consult the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and obtain his comments on each proposal. After obtaining the comments of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the adminstrative Ministry shall then place the proposal for dereservation along with the Commissioner's comments before a Committee comprising the Secretaries in the Ministry of Personnel, in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry/ Department under which the recruitment is being made for consideration and recommendation. The recommendation of this Committee shall be placed before the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Personnel for a final decision. In regard to OBCs, the instructions of the Department of Personnel & Training provide that the vacancies reserved for OBCs which remain unfilled should not be de-reserved but should be carried forward as such for a period of three recruitment years or till the vacancies are filled by OBC candidates, whichever is earlier. The exact details as to dereservation, if any, in case of various offices under the Ministry of Finance are not centrally maintained.

Storage of Rain Water

†*220. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States have been urged for the implementation of programme with regard to the storage of rain water available in the country;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding the storage capacity of rain water in each State; and

(c) if so, the capacity of each State for storing the rain water and the percentage which is being stored at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.